

been recognized for having the lowest dropout rate in the school district. Mira Mesa High School currently has formal educational partners: Proxima, Fieldstone Corporation, the U.S. Army, Wells Fargo Bank, and the San Diego Police Department Traffic Division.

MMHS operates as a Second-to-None school with an emphasis on School-to-Career key elements, the University of California a-f graduation requirements, the California curriculum frameworks, and state and district content and performance standards. The education program features curricular paths, integrated academics and vocational education, job shadowing opportunities, career elective classes, advisory classes, college/career portfolios, service learning, and senior exhibitions. A school-wide literacy focus has been implemented through the district's new Institute for Learning. Other guiding forces are the WASC Annual Action Plan, and a variety of assessment measures including the SAT, the state STAR test, and Advanced Placement exams. MMHS has strong values and many traditions embedded in the school's mission statement: "To educate all students in an integrated setting to become responsible, literate, thinking, and contributing members of a multicultural society through excellence in teaching and learning." The school's vision demonstrates pride and commitment to the task, and supports respect for all members.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY - OF THE
PUERTORRIQUENOS ASOCIADOS
FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
(PACO)

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Puertorriquenos Asociados for Community Organization (PACO) on its 30th anniversary.

PACO is a non-profit organization in Jersey City that has served communities throughout New Jersey for 30 years. Since 1970, PACO has provided assistance with education and vocational training, job placement, housing, health services, emergency food and shelter, youth and elderly programs, and medical insurance.

By providing a variety of essential social services, PACO has made valuable contributions to the welfare of Jersey City residents, as well as to residents throughout New Jersey, insuring that the people who need it most receive a helping hand.

Today, this organization has every reason to celebrate. Because of years of selfless dedication and hard work, PACO has greatly improved the quality of life of many of our fellow citizens.

I commend PACO and its dedicated staff for all they have done for the residents of New Jersey. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing PACO and all its success.

A TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST
CLASS RICHARD WILSON OF
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2000

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, PFC Wilson's biography reminds us who fights our nation's wars. They are men and women, from all walks of life, who answer the call to service and, in too many cases, make the ultimate sacrifice.

Richard Wilson grew up in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, in a family of seven children. He was a good student, a Boy Scout, a football talent, and a Golden Gloves boxer. He took an interest in military service and sought to enlist as soon as he could. On August 19, 1948, on his seventeenth birthday, he enlisted in the Army. Shortly thereafter, he reported to Fort Sam Houston for medical training. He subsequently volunteered for airborne school and reported to Fort Benning, Georgia for training. He was then assigned to Fort Campbell, Kentucky in a medical company of the 11th Airborne Division.

In June of 1950, war broke out in Korea. By late July, Wilson's unit was on alert to deploy to Korea. A final weekend at home on the Fourth of July was his family's last time with him. However, Richard Wilson wanted to marry his sweetheart before he shipped out for the Pacific. So, on August 28, 1950, three days before his departure, PFC Wilson married his sweetheart, Bonnie. He pulled duty during the day and shared a guest cottage at night until his unit shipped out. Bonnie was present to bid him farewell as his train pulled out.

Shortly after the Allied landings at Inchon and the liberation of Seoul, Wilson's unit arrived in Korea. His regiment participated in one of the largest airdrops in history on October 20, 1950.

The 187th regimental combat team, of which he was a part, dropped behind enemy lines, 30 miles north of Pyongyang to cut-off retreating North Korean Army units. It was a beautiful fall day as they made their landings among rice paddies and took up positions to block retreating enemy units. The afternoon and night of October 20 were quiet. The next day, however, Wilson's unit came under heavy fire from a vastly superior enemy determined to break through and escape to the north.

The 187th regimental combat team's mission was to ensure the high ground north of the town of Opari. On the morning of October 21, 1950, as the unit conducted a reconnaissance in force, it was flanked on three sides and forced to withdraw after sustaining heavy casualties. During this action, PFC Wilson rendered life-saving aid to numerous casualties. As his unit prepared to withdraw further, Wilson noticed that one casualty that had been presumed dead was still alive. Despite the orders to withdraw further, Wilson moved to aid and comfort the casualty. As he administered morphine and prepared to dress the casualty's wounds, he was killed by point blank enemy fire. On August 2, 1951, his widow was presented with the Medal of Honor by General Omar Bradley, in recognition of PFC Richard G. Wilson's conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty.

PFC Wilson volunteered to serve his country. He did so honorably. He came to us as a product of a principled family with strong values. He made remarkable contributions to the proud legacy of Army medicine. He bore great burdens with dedication and selflessness. And he was taken from us too soon.

BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL WINNER

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2000

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rincon Middle School in Escondido and its leaders, Principal, Lou Bailey and Superintendent, Rob Guiles. Rincon has been designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2000. I am proud to inform my colleagues that my district had an amazing record of eleven schools selected for that prestigious honor this year. I would also like to note that the Academy of Our Lady of Peace right outside my district in San Diego County was also named a Blue Ribbon School. I applaud the educators, students and communities in each of the San Diego County schools who pulled together in pursuit of educational excellence.

Blue Ribbon Schools are recognized as some of the nation's most successful institutions, and they are exemplary models for achieving educational excellence throughout the nation. Not only have they demonstrated excellence in academic leadership, teaching and teacher development, and school curriculum, but they have demonstrated exceptional levels of community and parental involvement, high student achievement levels and strong safety and discipline.

After schools are nominated by state education agencies for the Blue Ribbon award, they undergo a rigorous review of their programs, plans and activities. That is followed with visits by educational experts for evaluation. Ultimately, those schools which best demonstrate strong leadership, clear vision and mission, excellent teaching and curriculum, policies and practices that keep the schools safe for learning, family involvement and evidence of high standards are selected for this prestigious award. I am pleased that they are now receiving the national recognition they are due.

As school and community leaders head to Washington for the Department of Education awards ceremony, I want to thank them once again for a job well done. More satisfying than any award, these leaders will have the lifelong satisfaction of having provided the best education possible and a better future for thousands of children. I am proud of what they have achieved, and want to share their achievements so that more people benefit from their accomplishments. I ask that a summary of Rincon Middle School's superior work be included in the record:

Rincon Middle School is located in the northeast part of Escondido 40 miles north of San Diego. One of four middle schools in the Escondido Union School District, Rincon is surrounded by open fields and farmlands and has preserved its rural feel, despite its proximity to the city. The natural beauty of